

LAKE FOREST, IL –Congressman Mark Kirk, IDOT representatives, local officials and business leaders announced today an \$18.5 million expansion project for the Route 60 bridge over I-94 in Lake Forest. In 2005 Congressman Kirk secured \$9 million in federal funding for the congestion-fighting project as part of the federal transportation bill (SAFETEA-LU). Motorists should expect major construction activities to begin in early November with work ending in December 2008. Lorig Construction of Des Plaines was awarded the IDOT contract on Friday.

“Anyone who has been caught on Route 60 after 3:30 p.m. on a weekday knows that you might as well get a hotel room instead of fighting the traffic,” Congressman Kirk said. “The bridge is one of the most congested in northern Illinois with more than 36,000 vehicles passing through the area each day. Half of all Illinois citizens live in the suburbs. As suburb-to-suburb commuting times continue to rise, we need to widen bridges where congestion is worst. This project will boost our local economy and give time back to mothers and fathers to be with their kids.”

Participating in the announcement were IDOT District 1 Chief of Planning and Programming Clarita Lao, IDOT Area Construction Supervisor Ann Berube, Lake County Director of Transportation Martin Buehler, Lake-Cook Transportation Management Association (TMA) President and Grainger representative Phil Lippert, past TMA President Tom Leahy with American Hotel Register and David Lorig, President of Lorig Construction.

"The Route 60 expansion project will provide welcome congestion relief for drivers in Lake County," IDOT Secretary Milton R. Sees said. "We are pleased to be able to work with Rep. Kirk on this infrastructure investment that will improve the quality of life for drivers and also spur economic development by speeding up the movement of goods through the area."

Commenting on this significant project, Lake Forest Mayor Michael Rummel stated, "We are extremely pleased this project is moving ahead and thank Congressman Mark Kirk for his success in obtaining the federal dollars needed. This improvement is vital not only for the businesses along this heavily traveled corridor, but also because it will improve traffic safety and efficiency for all motorists using Route 60."

The expansion project includes funding from IDOT, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, local governments and businesses.